

## **Testimony to the Aging Committee**

**March 4, 2014**

**In support of**

**SB 244, An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates**

**Presented by Andre Brel, Juniper House Adult Day Center and Homecare**

Good morning Senator Ayala, Representative Serra, and members of the Aging Committee. My name is Andrew Brel and I am the President of Juniper House Adult Day Center and Homecare in West Hartford. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 244, An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates.

I join my colleagues in urging your support of increasing the provider rates within the Connecticut Home Care Program. Juniper House serves many older adults who are in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders. We provide adult day center services, homemaker companion services and meals on wheels delivery. The services we provide are essential to our clients and allow them to remain in their homes and age in place. However the rates that we are paid through the program are not keeping up with the rising costs of providing them and we urge your help.

We encourage the Committee to support Senate Bill 244 which would strengthen the rate system within the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders so that the current community based providers will survive and the network of community based provider can grow. These are the appropriate steps to take to ensure a strong community based network of services for our rebalanced system of long term services and supports.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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